



## CMAM TWG Monthly Meeting

15<sup>th</sup> May 2025, Time: 10.00 am to 12.00 pm, Venue: NS Conference Room

### Meeting minutes

Chair: Nutrition Officer, Mohammad Zahidul Manir, UNICEF.

Note taker: Programme Policy Officer, Mohammad ASHIKULLA, WFP.

### Agenda

1. Review of last meeting minutes/action points (10 mins)
2. Update on the analysis of SAM and MAM WHO recommendation piloting data from UNICEF and WFP (30 mins)
3. Reviewing the possible reasons of high LOS and poor AWG (20 mins)
4. Reviewing the proposal of the Stabilization Centre (SC) Proposal at PHCC (Camp 21) by SCI (30 mins)
5. AOB (10 mins)

#### 1. Review of the action points from the previous meeting

Action point	Focal point/ agency	Timeline	Status
SCI will check with nutrition IPs regarding the expected caseload and their feasibility of sustaining the services for long term.	SCI	17 <sup>th</sup> April'25	Completed
Analysis of the WHO piloting data considering the previous CMAM 2013 SAM discharge guideline	UNICEF	17 <sup>th</sup> April'25	Completed
GK will share the MAM WHO piloting data to WFP	GK	23 <sup>rd</sup> March'25	Completed
WFP will analyze the MAM WHO piloting data regarding the recommendation on RUSF ration size	WFP	17 <sup>th</sup> April'25	Ongoing

#### 2. Update on the analysis of SAM and MAM WHO recommendation piloting data from UNICEF and WFP

UNICEF presented the results of the piloting of the WHO SAM treatment recommendation across three scenarios. The presentation included additional analyses comparing program performance outcomes between the current WHO discharge criteria and the previous (non-WHO) criteria, along with a review of key program data, particularly on cure/non-response (CNR) and relapse rates. Overall, it was observed that adopting the updated WHO discharge criteria does not significantly impact program outcomes when compared to the standard. As such, implementation of the new criteria is considered feasible in the current context.

Following the presentation, an open discussion was held regarding the adaptation of the recommended changes, especially on the RUTF ration size. Taking into account the workload of field staff, their technical

capacity, and the need for simplified RUTF management, CMAM TWG members reached a consensus to revise the severe wasting management guideline and recommended to the Nutrition Sector, to effective the changes from 1 July 2025.

The agreed-upon discharge criteria are as follows:

- (1) weight-for-height/length z-score (WHZ/WLZ) equal to or greater than -2 standard deviations (SD) of the WHO child growth standards median, **and**
- (2) mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) equal to or greater than 125 mm, observed for at least two consecutive visits.

The revised RUTF ration size will be **150 kcal/kg/day**, continued until the child achieves full anthropometric recovery and the resolution of nutritional oedema.

Additionally, WFP informed the group that they have received the relevant database from GK and have initiated the analysis on RUSF ration size recommendations. WFP will share the results of this analysis in the next CMAM TWG meeting.

### 3. Reviewing the possible reasons of Low AWG

UNICEF presented an analysis of average weight gain (AWG) trends for a total of 1,926 SAM children treated in outpatient therapeutic programs (OTPs) across 16 camps in Cox's Bazar between July and December 2024. In addition to program data analysis, UNICEF conducted an in-depth review of various global and national guidelines related to AWG and compared these standards with the realities of severe wasting management in the Rohingya camps. While the 2023 WHO guidelines no longer prescribe fixed weight gain targets, they reference 5–10 g/kg/day as a general benchmark lower than the earlier standard of 10–15 g/kg/day used during predominantly **inpatient care**. Bangladesh's national CMAM guidelines recommend an AWG of  $\geq 5$  g/kg/day for successful recovery in outpatient settings. Similarly, FANTA guidance suggests an AWG of over 4 g/kg/day for cured discharges in outpatient care. However, recent global evidence, including publications in *The Lancet*, indicates that actual AWG in field settings often falls below 4 g/kg/day. This discrepancy has led to increasing uncertainty about realistic performance expectations between inpatient and outpatient treatment settings. In Cox's Bazar, factors such as frequent morbidity, suboptimal food intake, and limited caregiver adherence make achieving ideal AWG targets in OTPs particularly challenging. Recognizing this, CMAM TWG members reached a consensus that AWG outcomes observed in Cox's Bazar are in line with global field experiences. The group agreed to develop a one-pager for Nutrition sector to inform policymakers, donors, and program planners about weight gain expectations. This document will propose context-specific performance benchmarks for AWG, categorized as very good, good, acceptable, and poor, based on the program data review.

### 4. Reviewing the proposal of the Stabilization Centre (SC) Proposal at PHCC (Camp 21)

Save the Children presented an updated proposal for the establishment of a Stabilization Centre (SC) at the PHCC in Camp 21. The revised proposal included key details such as the expected caseload and clarification on the organization's capacity to operate the SC in the long term, given recent budget constraints. Based on the submitted information, CMAM TWG members discussed the need for an SC in the Teknaf area and recommended to the Nutrition Sector the establishment of the SC at the proposed site. The tentative establishment date was proposed as 1 July 2025. Additionally, CMAM TWG members agreed to review the existing SC mapping and respective catchment areas to assess whether there is a need for any additional SCs as part of the ongoing response.



## 5. Nutrition Response Plan for Eid Holidays: Modality and Advance Distribution Strategy

In response to the 10-day Government of Bangladesh (GOB) holidays and the related circular from the RRRC office regarding office closures, Nutrition Sector partners sought guidance from the CMAM TWG on operational modalities during this period. After discussion, the following agreements were made to operationalize the Integrated Nutrition Facilities (INF) and Stabilization Centres (SC) during the holidays:

- The Stabilization Centre (SC) will remain open 24/7 throughout the Eid holidays, while all other nutrition services will be closed during this time.
- Partners operating on the two Saturdays, 17 and 24 May 2025, will not distribute any items that could interfere with the regular distribution schedule; however, they may carry out other activities such as screening and nutrition sessions on those days.
- SHED and CWW developed a common advanced distribution plan for all partners, which will be circulated to CMAM TWG members for review and endorsement.

**Distribution Plan during Eid-ul-Adha Holidays**

Actual Dist. Date	OTP		TSFP		BSFP Child & All PBW		NSEP	
	Planned Date	Remarks	Planned Date	Remarks	Planned Date	Remarks	Planned Date	Remarks
03-Jun-25					22-May-25	Advanced		
04-Jun-25					25-May-25	Advanced		
05-Jun-25	04-Jun-25	Advanced Double	03-Jun-25	Advanced	26-May-25	Advanced	15-Jun-25	After Eid. But maintained the cycle.
08-Jun-25	04-Jun-25	Advanced	03-Jun-25	Advanced	27-May-25	Advanced	16-Jun-25	After Eid. But maintained the cycle.
09-Jun-25	04-Jun-25	Advanced	04-Jun-25	Advanced	28-May-25	Advanced	17-Jun-25	After Eid. But maintained the cycle.
10-Jun-25	03-Jun-25	Double	04-Jun-25	Advanced	29-May-25	Advanced	18-Jun-25	After Eid. But maintained the cycle.
11-Jun-25	04-Jun-25	Double	04-Jun-25	Advanced	01-Jun-25	Advanced	19-Jun-25	After Eid. But maintained the cycle.
12-Jun-25	04-Jun-25	Covered on 4 Jun '25	04-Jun-25	Advanced	02-Jun-25	Advanced	22-Jun-25	After Eid. But maintained the cycle.

Action points	Focal point/agency	Timeline
UNICEF will support preparation of new WHO recommendation on wasting management (updating discharge criteria, formal endorsement to update protocols, Adjusted RUTF dosing protocol) implementation from 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2025	UNICEF	15 <sup>th</sup> June'25
UNICEF will prepare one pager briefing note on expected AWG target	UNICEF	30 <sup>th</sup> May'25
SCI will take necessary arrangement for opening new SC within PHC in camp 21 from 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2025	SCI	15 <sup>th</sup> June'25
WFP will analyze the MAM WHO piloting data regarding the recommendation on RUSF ration size	WFP	15 <sup>th</sup> June'25



## Participants

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